

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the application, as amended, in view of the following remarks.

Patel, Hatsuda, Ramesh, Davies, and Brehm fail to disclose or suggest a water-soluble polymer composition as claimed in **new Claim 21** obtained by continuous polymerization of at least one unsaturated monomer,

wherein said polymerization is effected on a **moving support** with a **predetermined residence time**, and

wherein during said polymerization at least one parameter biasing the polymerization is varied **in the feed of said monomer to the moving support** in a continuous fashion according to an **oscillation** about a mean value at a **frequency that is in the same order of magnitude as the residence time**.

Patel, Hatsuda, Ramesh, Davies, and Brehm fail to disclose or suggest a water-soluble **co-polymer or terpolymer** composition as claimed in **new Claim 32** obtained by continuous polymerization of unsaturated monomers,

wherein said polymerization is effected on a **conveyor belt** with a **predetermined residence time**, and

wherein **prior to the polymerization** the metering rate of at least one of the unsaturated monomers is **varied in the feed of said monomer** to said conveyor belt in a continuous fashion by **steadily increasing and steadily decreasing back the metering rate** according to an oscillation about a mean value at a **frequency that is in the same order of magnitude as the residence time**.

Patel, Hatsuda, Ramesh, Davies, and Brehm fail to disclose or suggest **processes for treating a suspension** a claimed in **new Claims 30 and 39**, comprising:

adding the water-soluble polymer composition claimed in Claims 21 or 32, respectively, to said suspension, wherein said water-soluble polymer composition flocculates or dewateres said suspension.

Patel, Hatsuda, Ramesh, Davies, and Brehm fail to disclose or suggest **methods of dewatering sewage** as claimed in **new Claims 31 and 40**, comprising:

adding the water-soluble polymer composition according to Claims 32 or 40, respectively, to said sewage, to remove solids from said sewage at a substantially constant filtrate clarity.

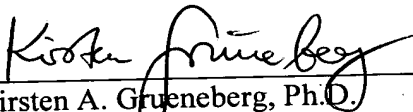
Thus, new Claims 21-40 should not be rejected over Patel, Hatsuda, Ramesh, Davies, and Brehm.

This application presents allowable subject matter, and the Examiner is kindly requested to pass it to issue. Should the Examiner have any questions regarding the claims or otherwise wish to discuss this case, he is kindly invited to contact Applicants' below-signed representative, who would be happy to provide any assistance deemed necessary in speeding this application to allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.
Norman F. Oblon

Customer Number
22850


Kirsten A. Grueneberg, Ph.D.
Registration No.: 47,297

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 412-2220

NFO/KAG/pae